



## Celebrating 2013 YWFLA Graduates!

Women Writing for (a) Change is proud and pleased to announce the 2013 graduates of our Young Women's Feminist Leadership Academy: Hannalee Goldman, Maddie Henke, Jaye Johnson, Olivia Linn, Sarah Smith, and Emily Sullivan! These six courageous young women, ages 14 through 18, worked together closely to complete this intensive course in conscious feminism and leadership.

The YWFLA was last offered in 2007 and 2008. The 2013 program was developed and led by Meg Stentz and Avery Smith, graduates of the 2008 YWFLA class! Under the guidance of Andrea Nichols and with experience as facilitators in our summer camps for the last few years, Meg and Avery came full circle and stepped seamlessly into the role of leading the current class through the program.

The leadership program included two weekend retreats and a series of five intensive classes. Each participant was also responsible for creating and carrying out a practicum exercise in the community. The young women were mentored in this by Andrea Nichols, Andrea Rotter, and Diane Debevec. They also assisted each other with their practicums, which included:

- \*facilitating a 5 session discussion group for school peers, based on readings about women's sexuality
- \*a monologue performance for an audience of about 30
- \*a celebration and dance event for the YWFLA community
- \*a personal exploration into self-care and relationship with one's own body
- \*and a 3 class series of writing circles for younger girls, much like those we hold in our programs

The six YWFLA graduates have all participated in Young Women Writing for (a) Change summer camps and classes for several years. In addition to their successes at Young Women Writing for (a) Change, we also congratulate them for their numerous additional accomplishments.

Hannalee Goldman and Olivia Linn each won the Overture Award in Creative Writing in 2012 and 2013, respectively. Both attributed their success in part to their years with YWWf(a)C. Olivia was also awarded a silver medal in poetry in the 2013 National Scholastic Art & Writing Awards.

In acting, Emily Sullivan was the 1st place winner in the regional finals of the 2013 National Shakespeare Competition, sponsored by the English Speaking Union. She went on to perform in the national semifinals on stage at Lincoln Center in NYC in April. Emily is also the recipient of the Wells Scholarship at Indiana University, a merit-based scholarship that provides four years of full financial support including study abroad.

Sarah Smith has also received a full tuition and housing scholarship, the Chick Evans Caddie Scholarship, to The Ohio State University, where she will be a freshman this fall.

In the visual arts, Maddie Henke received a Gold Key Scholastic Art Award in digital arts and Jaye Johnson won an American Visions Medal award in mixed media for the 2013 National Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. Jaye will receive her award at Carnegie Hall in New York City!

We wish these young women, and all of the young women who grow up in the Women Writing for (a) Change community, every success in life. It is our hope that many of them will return to us in the future, as members, facilitators, and leaders in this very community!